



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

March 5, 2012

MR. ZACHARY STEWART
MUCKROCK NEWS
DEPT MR 1089
POST OFFICE BOX 55819
BOSTON, MA 02205 5819

FOIPA Request No.: 1183747- 000
Subject: PAUL, RONALD ERNEST "RON"
(CONGRESSMAN)

Dear Mr. Stewart:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIPA) request to the FBI. The FOIPA number listed above has been assigned to your request.

You have requested records concerning a third party (or third parties). Records pertaining to a third party generally cannot be released absent express authorization and consent of the third party, proof that the subject of your request is deceased, or a clear demonstration that the public interest in disclosure outweighs the personal privacy interest and that significant public benefit would result from the disclosure of the requested records. Proof of death can be a copy of a death certificate, Social Security Death Index, obituary or another recognized reference source. Death is presumed if the birth date of the subject is more than 100 years ago. Since you have not furnished a Certification of Identity form, proof of death, or public justification for release, the release of records concerning a third party would result in an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and would be in violation of the Privacy Act, Title 5 U.S.C. § 552a. These records are also generally exempt from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA, Title 5 U.S.C. § 552 exemptions (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C).

Enclosed is a Certification of Identity form. You may make additional copies of this form if you are requesting information on more than one individual. The subject of your request should complete this form and then sign it or prepare a document containing the required descriptive data and have it notarized. The original certification of identity, notarized authorization with the descriptive information and a legible, original signature must be provided to the FBI before an accurate search of our records can be conducted.

If requested, we will conduct a search for any public records maintained in our files, such as court records and news clippings, without the express authorization of the third party, proof of death, or public justification for release provided the subject is of sufficient public notoriety. If public records exist in our files and you desire to obtain them, please reply with a letter asking for the public documents. You can fax your request to (540) 868-4997, or mail to 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, to the Attn: Work Process Unit. If we do not receive a response from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, your request will be closed. You must include the FOIPA request number with any communication regarding this matter. This response should not be considered an indication of whether or not records responsive to your request exist in FBI files.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Number assigned to your request to facilitate its identification.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI File Fact Sheet.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division



FBI FILE FACT SHEET

- The primary function of the FBI is law enforcement.
The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States
- **The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920's.**
- **FBI files generally contain reports** of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, counter-intelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white-collar crime, major thefts/violent crime, and applicants.
- **The FBI does not issue clearances or nonclearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities.** Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should contact that entity. Most government agencies have websites which are accessible on the internet which have their contact information.
- **An identification record or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an FBI "file"** – it is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and related documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Record Request, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. Along with a specific written request, the individual must submit a new full set of his/her fingerprints in order to locate the record, establish positive identification, and ensure that an individual's records is not disseminated to an unauthorized person. The fingerprint submission must include the subject's name, date of birth and place of birth. There is a required fee of \$18 for this service which must be submitted in the form of a money order or certified bank check made payable to the Treasury of the United States. A credit card payment option is also available. Forms for this option and additional directions may be obtained by accessing the FBI Web site at www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm. States.
- **The National Name Check Program (NNCP)** conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index (UNI) to identify any information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to the requesting Federal, State or local agency. For the NNCP, a name is searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine whether it is applicable to the individual in question.
- **The Record/Information Dissemination Section/Freedom of Information-Privacy Act (FOIPA)** search for records provides copies of FBI files relevant to a FOIPA request for information. FOIPA provides responsive documents to requestors seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject name, event, activity, business, or event is searched to determine whether there is an investigative file associated with the subject. This is called a "main file search" and differs from the **NNCP** search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.fbi.gov

U.S. Department of Justice

Certification of Identity


 FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 1103-0016
 EXPIRES 10/31/13

Privacy Act Statement. In accordance with 28 CFR Section 16.41(d) personal data sufficient to identify the individuals submitting requests by mail under the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a, is required. The purpose of this solicitation is to ensure that the records of individuals who are the subject of U.S. Department of Justice systems of records are not wrongfully disclosed by the Department. Requests will not be processed if this information is not furnished. False information on this form may subject the requester to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and/or 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(i)(3).

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Suggestions for reducing this burden may be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Public Use Reports Project (1103-0016), Washington, DC 20503.

Full Name of Requester ¹ _____

Citizenship Status ² _____ Social Security Number ³ _____

Current Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am the person named above, and I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than five years or both, and that requesting or obtaining any record(s) under false pretenses is punishable under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3) by a fine of not more than \$5,000.

Signature ⁴ _____ Date _____

OPTIONAL: Authorization to Release Information to Another Person

This form is also to be completed by a requester who is authorizing information relating to himself or herself to be released to another person.

Further, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(b), I authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to release any and all information relating to me to:

 Print or Type Name

¹ Name of individual who is the subject of the record(s) sought.

² Individual submitting a request under the Privacy Act of 1974 must be either "a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(a)(2). Requests will be processed as Freedom of Information Act requests pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552, rather than Privacy Act requests, for individuals who are not United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

³ Providing your social security number is voluntary. You are asked to provide your social security number only to facilitate the identification of records relating to you. Without your social security number, the Department may be unable to locate any or all records pertaining to you.

⁴ Signature of individual who is the subject of the record sought.